



Lesson 20 – In the Regions Beyond

Based on Acts 16:7-40

Paul, Silas and Timothy were out on Paul's second missionary journey. They receive a call...

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Acts 16:7-8 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

The men were inclined to travel north, but the Holy Spirit dictated otherwise.

2) What did God do for them?

Acts 16:9-10 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into _____, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had _____ us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Luke joined the group in Troas.

3) Where did they go?

Acts 16:11-12 Therefore loosing from Troas, _____ came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; And from thence to _____, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

4) Where did they go to break new ground?

Acts 16:13 And on the _____ we went out of the city by a river side, where _____ was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

5) Whom did they meet?

Acts 16:14-15 And a certain woman named _____, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was _____, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

6) While staying there in Philippi, what happened?

Acts 16:16-17 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel _____ with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of _____.

This woman was a special agent of Satan and had brought to her masters much gain by soothsaying. Her influence had helped to strengthen idolatry. Satan knew that his kingdom was being invaded, and he resorted to this means of opposing the work of God, hoping to mingle his sophistry with the truths taught by those who were proclaiming the gospel message. The words of recommendation uttered by this woman were an injury to the cause of truth, distracting the minds of the people from the teachings of the apostles and bringing disrepute upon the gospel, and by them many were led to believe that the men who spoke with the Spirit and power of God were actuated by the same spirit as this emissary of Satan.



7) What did Paul finally do?

Acts 16:18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I _____ thee in the name of Jesus Christ to _____ of her. And he came out the same hour.

Her immediate silence testified that the apostles were the servants of God and that the demon had acknowledged them to be such and had obeyed their command.

8) Everybody rejoiced, Right?

Acts 16:19-21 And when her masters saw that the hope of their _____ was gone, they _____ Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly _____ our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

Dispossessed of the evil spirit and restored to her right mind, the woman chose to become a follower of Christ. Then her masters were alarmed for their craft. They saw that all hope of receiving money from her divinations and soothsayings was at an end and that their source of income would soon be entirely cut off if the apostles were allowed to continue the work of the gospel.

Many others in the city were interested in gaining money through satanic delusions, and these, fearing the influence of a power that could so effectually stop their work, raised a mighty cry against the servants of God.

9) What did they do to Paul and Silas?

Acts 16:23-24 And when they had laid many _____ upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the _____.

10) Were they discouraged?

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas _____, and _____ unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

With astonishment the other prisoners heard the sound of prayer and singing issuing from the inner prison. They had been accustomed to hear shrieks and moans, cursing and swearing, breaking the silence of the night; but never before had they heard words of prayer and praise ascending from that gloomy cell. Guards and prisoners marveled and asked themselves who these men could be, who, cold, hungry, and tortured, could yet rejoice.

The keeper of the jail had heard with amazement the prayers and songs of the imprisoned apostles. When they were led in, he had seen their swollen and bleeding wounds and had himself caused their feet to be fastened in the stocks. He had expected to hear from them bitter groans and imprecations, but he heard instead songs of joy and praise. With these sounds in his ears the jailer had fallen into a sleep.

11) Sometime in the night, what happened?

Acts 16:26-27 And suddenly there was a great _____, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were _____. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.



Starting up in alarm, he saw with dismay that all the prison doors were open, and the fear flashed upon him that the prisoners had escaped. He remembered with what explicit charge Paul and Silas had been entrusted to his care the night before, and he was certain that death would be the penalty of his apparent unfaithfulness. In the bitterness of his spirit he felt that it was better for him to die by his own hand than to submit to a disgraceful execution.

12) What did Paul yell out?

Acts 16:28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no _____: for we are all here.

The severity with which the jailer had treated the apostles had not aroused their resentment. Paul and Silas had the spirit of Christ, not the spirit of revenge. Their hearts, filled with the love of the Saviour, had no room for malice against their persecutors.

13) How did he react to Paul and Silas?

Acts 16:29-30 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came _____, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be _____?

The jailer had trembled as he beheld the wrath of God manifested in the earthquake; when he thought that the prisoners had escaped he had been ready to die by his own hand; but now all these things seemed of little consequence compared with the new, strange dread that agitated his mind, and his desire to possess the tranquility and cheerfulness shown by the apostles under suffering and abuse. He saw in their countenances the light of heaven; he knew that God had interposed in a miraculous manner to save their lives.

14) What words came back to his mind?

Acts 16:17 ...These men are the _____ of the most high God..

15) What did they tell the Jailer?

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be _____, and thy house.

16) What happened next?

Acts 16:32-34 And they spake unto him the _____ of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was _____, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his _____, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

17) What happened the next day?

Acts 16:35-36 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men _____. And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore _____, and go in peace.

The citizens of Philippi had been greatly terrified by the earthquake, and when in the morning the officers of the prison told the magistrates of what had occurred during the night, they were alarmed and sent the sergeants to liberate the apostles.



18) Did Paul and Silas run away?

Acts 16:37-38 But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being _____, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and _____ us out. And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans.

The apostles were Roman citizens, and it was unlawful to scourge a Roman, save for the most flagrant crime, or to deprive him of his liberty without a fair trial. Paul and Silas had been publicly imprisoned, and they now refused to be privately released without the proper explanation on the part of the magistrates.

19) What did they do?

Acts 16:39 And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and _____ them to depart out of the city.

When this word was brought to the authorities, they were alarmed for fear that the apostles would complain to the emperor, and going at once to the prison, they apologized to Paul and Silas for the injustice and cruelty done them and personally conducted them out of the prison, entreating them to depart from the city. The magistrates feared the apostles' influence over the people, and they also feared the Power that had interposed in behalf of these innocent men.

20) Where did they go?

Acts 16:40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of _____: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

The apostles did not regard as in vain their labors in Philippi. They had met much opposition and persecution; but the intervention of Providence in their behalf, and the conversion of the jailer and his household, more than atoned for the disgrace and suffering they had endured. The news of their unjust imprisonment and miraculous deliverance became known through all that region, and this brought the work of the apostles to the notice of a large number who otherwise would not have been reached.

21) Who is our warfare really against?

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against _____, against the rulers of the _____ of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The early Christians were often called to meet the powers of darkness face to face. By sophistry and by persecution the enemy endeavored to turn them from the true faith. At the present time, when the end of all things earthly is rapidly approaching, Satan is putting forth desperate efforts to ensnare the world. He is devising many plans to occupy minds and to divert attention from the truths essential to salvation. In every city his agencies are busily organizing into parties those who are opposed to the law of God. The archdeceiver is at work to introduce elements of confusion and rebellion, and men are being fired with a zeal that is not according to knowledge.

22) What will even the religious be proclaiming as the world ends?

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, _____ and _____; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Wickedness is reaching a height never before attained, and yet many ministers of the gospel are crying, "**Peace and safety.**" But God's faithful messengers are to go steadily forward with their work. Clothed with the panoply of heaven, they are to advance fearlessly and victoriously, never ceasing their warfare until every soul within their reach shall have received the message of truth for this time.

Can you see that persistence is necessary?

Do you want to help others see the truth?

When is the time to proclaim the truth?